

On a trip to Australia and New Zealand where we met with cabinet ministers and members of their parliament who had made their governments more effective and efficient, Ron was a great asset to us given his knowledge about comparisons he had seen in other parts of the world.

He knew the great history of the House of Representatives. He was dedicated. He is a very humble person, who helped many of us when as newcomers we sought his advice. And anyone that did not ask his advice should have because they would then have learned what kind of fine institution is the House of Representatives. He provided good advice to those who wanted to become effective legislators.

It is good to see Ron back. I hope that he will take these various encomiums with the respect and affection of his elected friends as he retires from the House that was his home for so long.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations and the ranking member for allowing us to disrupt the proceedings.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks regarding consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4516 and that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) and the

gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4516, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 565, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4516) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of legislative day of July 26, 2000 at page H7095.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to bring this conference report to the House. It was ready for consideration by the House before we recessed for our respective political conventions. But because of the schedule, we are just

now getting to it today. The conference report includes three bills that have already been passed by the House.

As my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, the House has passed all 13 of our appropriations bills. We also passed the major supplemental that was requested by the President this year. We have already considered the conference report on that supplemental and on the Defense appropriations bill and the Military Construction appropriations bill. And so, we are on the move here.

I am happy to report that this conference report includes the Legislative Branch appropriations bill and also the Treasury Postal bill, which funds in part the executive offices of the Executive Branch of Government, including the White House.

It also includes a bill that was passed in the House by a vote of 420-2 on repeal of the Spanish-American War tax on telephone services.

And so, we have those three bills that passed the House with substantial votes included in this conference report. Even the Treasury Postal bill passed the House by a vote that could be considered a landslide relative to previous votes. We passed that bill by a vote of 216-202. That is a lot better vote than we usually get on that bill. Nevertheless, we have worked hard with our counterparts in the other body, and we bring this conference report today.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following table for the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Bill, 2001: